



Black and *Pink* Newsletter

JULY 2010 ISSUE

BLACK AND PINK—NEWSLETTER, C/O COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON
565 BOYLSTON ST, BOSTON, MA 02116

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Dear friends,

Black and *Pink* is continuing to grow and reach more people because you are sharing your copies with folks and talking about what we are trying to do. Your bravery of being out, or even taking the risk to share with a few people, is something that inspires me and gives me strength. I am excited to see the possibilities of what we can all do together.

Ian and I recently went to the United States Social Forum in Detroit, Michigan. This was a gathering of many thousands of Leftists and Progressives from around the country who were seeking to build our connections across issues and give strength to our movements for justice and liberation. We talked with many people about Black and *Pink* and shared publicity information with people in San Francisco, Chicago, Detroit, NYC, Miami, Atlanta, Seattle, and so many more places. I am hopeful that these new connections will lead to more folks becoming pen-pals and reaching out to y'all.



US SOCIAL FORUM
JUNE 22-26, 2010
DETROIT, MI

**ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE!
ANOTHER US IS NECESSARY!
ANOTHER DETROIT IS HAPPENING!**

At one of the workshops on transformative justice that I went to we talked at great length about the need to abolish the prison industrial complex and create something new and beautiful that was rooted in community accountability and provided all the basic life necessities for everyone. That means struggling for housing for everyone, food access for everyone, meaningful work for everyone, and healthcare for all people! It was exciting to sit with many people who understand how racism, classism, ableism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression shape how people get incarcerated in the United States.

In another workshop we talked about the need to build movements with clear strategies to win. We were all encouraged to take on multiple actions at the same time, denouncing, resisting, and creating. So for us at Black and *Pink* we are denouncing the prison industrial complex in all of its forms, we are resisting the violence and silence it imposes, and we are striving to create avenues of communication and healing that will give us all the strength we need to continue the struggle. As revolutionary former political prisoner, Assata Shakur, says, "We have nothing to lose but our chains!"

Some small pieces we are working on out here is to get our newsletter in to Eastern Kentucky prisons who are denying our newsletter because we "promote homosexuality." We will be pursuing that till we win! We are also being denied from other prisons that consider this "inmate-to-inmate" correspondence. We will also fight that restriction and get our newsletter in there as well. We are being denied from places because we are becoming more popular and the mailroom folks are beginning to recognize us. We will keep pushing the borders of their control and continue to get this newsletter in to you. Your voices are the most important part and we will fight to get them heard!

And of course, it has been said many times before, once there were no prisons, that day will come again.

In loving struggle,
Jason

Update on Andy's Story

My brothers and sisters in the GLBTQ world: As you will recall I had my story published in the March issue of this wonderful newsletter that you are reading this very moment. In it, I mentioned that the "camp" where I am currently at is discriminating against me due to my being openly gay. I also mentioned that I was being housed alone because of the fact of my orientation. I have since gone through the darn grievance system in an attempt to right these wrongs. I guess I should have expected all my grievances and appeals to be denied, and they were. The only reason that I even went through the darn process is because of the next action that I have been forced to take. As of May 27, 2010, I have filed a lawsuit against my counselor, the treatment director, and the facility as a whole under section 1983 of the United States Code. My case, if allowed to proceed, will be heard by the United States District Court for the Southern District of my state. The court is located about 2 hours north of where this prison is located. It is going to cost me a good chunk of change, but in the long run, I hope it will be worth all the time and effort I have spent over the last few months. My lawsuit is not about money (although I am asking for what I feel is a reasonable amount), but is going to be focused on the principal of the matter, which is being discriminated against because of my sexual orientation. I hope and pray that the justice system will do the right thing (for once in a lifetime) and order this crazy place to stop violating the law. A good friend of mine here is going through the same process with pretty much the same circumstances as mine. I would ask all of you out there to please keep both of us in your thoughts and prayers. I will continue to write in with updates as they occur. For now, God Bless. Please and Love :)

-Andy McNeil

Lesbian Love That Could Never Be: Tranny Style

With a distant look in her eye,
I sensed an inner warmth that made me sigh.
A young Tranny, Lesbo boxer indeed,
Tough as steel, but gentle enough to fulfill my every need.
Being an old Tranny myself, she is paradise to me,
Because of her other ties, True Lovers we could never be.
Walking with her for a moment, I felt young again.
But, her life was so fast, she was gone like the wind.
I never longed for anyone so deeply before.
She gave her love so joyfully, I always wanted more.
She seemed like a lesbian Goddess to me,
But, I couldn't enjoy her much, so she let me be.
I have nothing but feelings of love for her.
Her outer beauty was more touching than minks of fur,
Behind her mask, I regret to say, she caught me unaware.
The Story or Dream is gone, she doesn't love me after all,
but I still care.

-A True Love Story by ♥Venus♥



Trans couple, Revana and Natasha



*A gift to Black & Pink Art from Roelio Play Madrigal
Thank you Roelio!*



*Respect Our Gay Community
By Joseph Barnes
For sale at: Blackandpinkart.org*



*Two beings one gender one spirit
By Mark WhiteEagle Lopez
For sale at: Blackandpinkart.org*

News

Black & Pink Artist
Tulio Cruz to be paroled in July!
Congratulations and Best of Luck, Tulio!

Black & Pink Does Boston Pride



From left: Booth attendee, booth attendee, Jason, and booth attendee

Black & Pink had a really popular booth at Boston Pride 2010! Our booth had bright panels of black and pink fabric for walls, and plenty of friendly volunteers who helped set up the display and show people around. We had many of the handwritten poems and stories included in this newsletter posted, as well as artwork, and a great list of ten reasons to support prison abolition.

We passed out pens with blackandpink.org and blackandpink-art.org imprinted on them, as well as stickers encouraging people to write pen-pals. Some of you may have received a handmade "happy pride" postcard! Others may have gotten a new pen-pal!

We look forward to being part of the Multicultural Pride being hosted in Boston by the Queer Women of Color and Friends Boston organization. We will be displaying artwork in an artshow, and having a prison pen-pal writing and karaoke night! Check for report backs in the September newsletter!



Booth Attendee and Reed Miller

Queer and Trans Peoples Resolution for the Safe Self- Determination of Our People

ROOTS Coalition; United States Social Forum, Detroit, MI June 25, 2010

PREAMBLE*

We must love each other and protect each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains.

-Assata Shakur

"WE, THE QUEER, TRANS, LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TWO SPIRIT, GENDER NON-CONFORMING PEOPLE gathered together at the United States Social Forum, to continue to build a national movement of our people to fight the state sponsored destruction of our communities. We do hereby establish our interdependence to one another to ensure our peoples' Safe Self-Determination; to abolish the state privileging of marriage or certain kinds of heteronormative families, kinships and communities; to respect and celebrate our varied gender and sexual identities, languages and indigenous knowledges about our world and our roles in healing ourselves; to ensure the human rights of our migrant, displaced and refugee people; to promote economic justice and to support new, small, local economic systems created and maintained by our people; and, to secure our political and cultural liberation that has been denied for over 500 years of colonization and oppression, resulting in the silencing and erasure of our peoples. Our identities are not our possessions; we do not own them, and we are more than any one label. However, our embodied existences are under attack and we do know that it is our duty to fight for specific and concrete human rights and overall system transformation, and we utilize this framework as we move towards Safe Self Determination. We recognize that many of our peoples, particularly rural and Native people, were not present with us at the forum, and this is, therefore, a significant and yet early step in our work together. We hereby do affirm and adopt these Principles of Safe Self-Determination:

Safe Self-Determination affirms our need to hold ourselves accountable for resolving all forms of violence enacted within our community.

Safe Self-Determination demands we hold the government accountable for all forms of state sponsored and interpersonal violence enacted upon our community.

Safe Self-Determination must ensure access to what we need through creating our own systems of economic interdependence and simultaneously holding domination-based economic systems accountable for their acts of physical, emotional, and spiritual starvation against us

Safe Self-Determination calls for our ingenuity and discipline to use all tactics within our values that are effective—this includes direct action, cultural shifts, alternative infrastructure building (including mechanisms for community accountability and self reliance), and holding the US government accountable through policy work

Safe Self-Determination insists that we must listen deeply to our communities, and work for concrete changes that directly impact areas of our lives that are under crisis-level attack: shown in our lack of access to any (let alone whole and transformative) work, wellness, and safety.

*Queer and Trans Peoples' Resolution for the Safe Self-Determination of Our People is inspired by the Environmental Justice Principles produced at the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit held on October 24-27, 1991, in Washington DC.

Radical Queer Word Search!

e d b g g h k h x k b u w e m n a b e x
 v d j l o n a m j z r a d k a g i u l n
 l e a p a r i z l v g r l m k a r m g n
 t j i g r c y k a u o u k w i y e b e x
 v p x y i p k s c l g r d h w g t s i k
 u l h n d r h t e a e w e k w a e c r r
 k a o n g i b r r b b b e v o m f n e u
 y d j g v e d n r i v e a j e e a n k m
 a g c a c u j e o j a b r t m s c u i y
 s w i s a a d m u s u n m a m n n v m o
 s d f w q n b r k c k t g m b r o z w g
 i p y w a o y i f i n c c l y w t h b n
 m f g x g s c e n a e w a t e t p u s k
 i v e x u f k f a j t g v j j q m m b e
 l l t o g g a f d b a z u c e b o s q a
 a g e n t r i f i c a t i o n g c d h y
 t t p z e z m a a z p u s f e j r b c z
 i m x h d k y y h c m k w u f w u o h d
 o k n a r f y e n r a b d h g g y r e y
 n y z l g n e d j e r i g h t s i d e g

Word Find -

1. Wrote for Gay Community News and provided direct support for queer prisoners around the country
2. Common insult and amazingly powerful word to describe a radical queer
3. acronym for fun sex/play that straight people can have too but it makes them a bit queer
4. persecuted queer and trans people, is a socialist country, apologized for earlier persecution and is taking part in community reparations.
5. Riots that occurred in August 1966 in SF as transgender people fought back for their rights to be served.
6. The process of working for gay marriage, over turning don't ask/don't tell, and seeking legitimization by straight people and institutions.
7. sexual act that got its name after the rise of the AIDS crisis
8. Black feminist lesbian socialist popularized the saying "your silence will not protect you
9. Self Hating gay republicans
10. Hanky code pocket side to signal bottom
11. Openly gay congressman, zionist, militarist, supporter of genetically engineered foods, referred to a stupid LaRouche supporter as a table during a community meeting, from Massachusetts
12. barrier for oral sex with cunts and asses (more so seen passed out than ever used in bed or other sex having spots)
13. Multi-racial, Revolutionary underground group in the Northwest of the United states that bombed corporations and government buildings in the struggle for liberation. Made up of lots of queers, working class folks, and formerly incarcerated people.
14. Author of Virtual Equality, long time organizer and speaker for queer rights... cautious radical.
15. Anarchist writer who wrote the first positive exploration of MSM love/sex in a published book in the United States, published in his prison memoirs.
16. International sporting event for glb(sorta t, not really inclusive) that is not called the olympics because the Olympic Committee would not allow them (though they do allow rat olympics and cheese olympics)
17. Popularized the Radical Faeries and queer magik
18. Symbol lesbians, sex workers, and other "deviant" women were forced to wear during the Nazi Holocaust
19. Process many white gay men and lesbians perpetuate while moving into urban communities of color

My Rage

My tears for Amanda rush down my face
 My cries for Ashely shake the walls of this place
 My heart breaks for Lilly and bleeds with the pleads of change
 Page after page, building up Rage, I scream to be released of this cage
 I feel the torments from Evil's fingertips
 My mind twists with pain and hatefulness
 for those men like rabid dogs in the openness
 My anger shouting for those animals to be put down
 Put me before them, I swear to stand my ground
 As my hands will rend them limb from limb
 And make them pay for the horrid things done to these beautiful women
 What has happened will not be forgotten
 I pray those vile men never be forgiven
 The day will come, they will wish to have never been among the living
 They will cry beg and feel unending pain
 Their families will turn from them in shame
 Do unto others, as you would have done to you!
 Because, men like me, that fight for right, will make sure
 The filthy foul fucking punks are... Through!

-Cail

P.S. To My People- With hope in my heart, one day, all of us will meet. For you, Lilly and Paula, my hugs will never end. I want to see every face of our community. No more hiding, no more fear, no more shame. We are True, stand with pride, stand with strength. With love, Cail

Artwork: Billy Foyil Jr. , Pencil on Handkerchief. On sale at blackandpinkart.org

Unloved.

This hatefulness and broken trust
 A thousand lies you've told,
 It's killing me with every word
 And fast becoming old.

I don't know what you mean to prove
 Or why you act this way,
 You twist my words and break my heart
 With all the games you play.

There was a time you looked at me
 And love was in your eyes,
 But now you focus all your time
 On telling painful lies.

I miss those days that are now past
 I wonder what went wrong,
 The one I loved has left me now
 The love that was, is gone.

-Richard

Tools for Well-Being

The health of body, mind and emotions is continuously affected by trauma, violence, weather, diet, environment, daily news, and the challenges of life. The use of simple ancient healing skills can empower us to live with peace and wellbeing no matter what is happening around us. The following Capacitar exercises are offered to be used at times when we feel drained, scattered or depressed. The challenge is to build these practices into our lives and lifestyle, so they become second nature and can be readily called upon whenever we are aware of traumatic stress, energy drain, depressed feelings or loss of center. -Patricia Mathes Cane, Ph.D., Capacitar Founder/CoDirector.

BREATHWORK

Breath is the source of life, bringing fresh energy into the tissues and cells to nourish body, mind and the whole person. When we breathe out, accumulated stress and toxins are released. Breathing through a stressful time is an effective way to let go of the tension that accumulates in the body. A few long deep breaths at a difficult moment can completely change the way we handle a situation. Breathwork combined with images of light or nature can promote feelings of peace, calm and focus.

Abdominal Breathing Sit comfortably supported and close your eyes. Breathe deeply and center yourself, letting go of all worries and thoughts. Place your hands on your abdomen, breathe in deeply through your nose and imagine the air moving down through the body into your center within your abdomen. Imagine that your abdomen fills with air as if it were a balloon. Hold your breath for a few moments and then exhale slowly through your mouth, contracting the muscles of your abdomen, letting go of all the tension in your body. Continue abdominal breathing for several minutes. If thoughts come into your mind, gently release them, returning to the image of the air moving in and out of your body.

Breathing in Nature Nature is a great resource for healing and grounding. With feet on the ground, breathe in deeply imagining that your feet are long roots running into the earth. Breathe in earth energy, breathe out stress, tension and pain.

TAI CHI ENERGY EXERCISES

The Rocking Movement



Stand with feet separated shoulder-width apart, hands at sides. Raise your heels and with palms facing upwards raise your hands to the level of your chest. Turn your palms downward and move your hands downward while you lower your heels and raise your toes in a rocking movement. Continue slowly rocking back and forth, breathing deeply. With each move drop your shoulders, relax your arms and fingers. Do the exercise smoothly and slowly. Breathe deeply and imagine that your feet are planted securely on the earth. As you raise your hands imagine that you are able to bring down into body and mind healing energy to cleanse and fill you. This is a very beneficial movement for trauma and depression.

The Shower of Light

With left foot forward, raise your hands up over your head, then move them downward as if showering yourself with light. Feel the energy cleansing and filling your being. Repeat on the right side, with right foot forward. Breathe in the shower of light, and then exhale and let go of any negativity within you. Feel the light cleansing and renewing you. This is an excellent for persons who are depressed or dealing with past wounds of trauma.



Let Go of the Past and Open to Receive

With left foot forward, palms curved softly downward, push your hands outward in a gentle arc, letting go of all tension, negativity, and violence within you. Turn palms upward and draw them back towards the chest, breathing in peace and healing.. Repeat with right foot forward. Breathe out the pain and violence. Breathe in peace and healing.



Fly through the Air

With your left foot forward, your left hand upward, swim or fly through the air. The motion should be free and light with arms and shoulders relaxed. Repeat the movement on the right side starting with your right hand upward. Fly freely through the air letting go of all that weighs you down, feeling light, alive and free. Open your heart to all the possibilities for your life and healing. This is good to release pain in back, shoulders and head.

From Selma to Phoenix, Civil Rights to Human Rights, to the Rights of Mother Earth!

"Edited From the Puente Website"

Resistance has sparked across the state of Arizona to defeat SB1070 and all racist policies that further criminalize im/migrant people and separate families. Puente, and other grassroots im/migrant organizations, are calling for the Obama Administration to take decisive action to intervene in Arizona and are organizing to root out the political establishment of hate, intolerance and division.



People in Arizona are calling all people of consciousness who are able and ready to dedicate time and effort towards this cause to come to Arizona this summer.

On Friday, April 23rd, Governor Jan Brewer joined the ranks of George Wallace and others like him who sought to gain political advantage by encouraging hatred and bigotry. And while Brewer and Sheriff Joe Arpaio may have written themselves into the history books by supporting this repugnant law, they will appear as nothing more than a footnote. Indeed, this chapter of history will be written by the millions of immigrants who assert their place in the American story like all others who came before them. This chapter will be written by a new generation of fearless leaders, like the thousands of high school students who walked out in Phoenix and Tucson, and the nine brave leaders who sacrificed their freedom to prevent and protest the enactment of an unjust and unconstitutional law. Arizona's immigrant community is organizing and preparing to mount the political, legal, and economic pressure needed to

restore constitutional protections to the state. They need the nation's help to change the federal policy that allowed for the formation of SB 1070. The simple fact is that the President of the United States has the moral authority and legal obligation to intervene and put an end to SB 1070.

Even while incarcerated there is much work that people can do. Letters of support are needed to go to President Obama - The White House - 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW - Washington, DC 20500. Tell President Obama to

1. *Reassert the federal government's exclusive control over immigration law by making clear that state and local police do not have the inherent authority to enforce immigration law.*
2. *Immediately suspend and terminate all police-ICE partnerships, including 287(g) agreements and the so-called 'Secure Communities Initiative.'*
3. *Direct the Department of Homeland Security to refuse to take custody of anyone charged with violating provisions of SB 1070.*

The targeting of im/migrant people is yet another step in the process of white supremacist colonization within the United States and it must be resisted in all forms. The resistance is not only coming from im/migrant people. Native peoples of the U.S. have also been stepping up the action as well. According to the *Indian Country Today* paper, "An estimated 100,000 people marched six miles May 29 to protest Arizona's new immigration law, they were led by Lakotas, Paiutes, Yavapai-Apache, Tohono O'odham, Akimel O'odham, and other tribal members.

Those in front held a banner that read, "Lakota-Nation: America Was Built With Stolen Land. No Border. No Boundaries."

Everyone has a role in fighting racist legislation whether it happens in Arizona or anywhere else in the world! Immigration enforcement officials are simply building the power of the incarceration system and as we struggle to tear down the prison walls we must do so with an understanding that they must stay down and the cells WILL NOT be filled with immigrants and migrant workers!

CALLING ALL ARTISTS! 31 ARTISTS AND COUNTING!!



Black & Pink Art will sell artwork and apparel printed with designs produced by queer and transgender prisoners to queer and transgender folks on the outside. Items are being sold online at blackandpinkart.org, as well as at BOSTON MULTICULTURAL PRIDE, first week of August!!

Proceeds from the sales will go back into the artist's commissary account!

Want to get involved? Send a note to the address below answering these questions:

- 1) What kind of art do you make? 2) How can you receive money? 3) What can you receive or ship?
- 4) Roughly how much money would you want for your art? 5) How long does it take to make?

Black and Pink Art- Reed Miller
C/O Community Church of Boston
565 Boylston St
Boston, MA 02116

Reed Miller, an FTM queer pen-pal, will send you back a letter explaining how things will work! He looks forward to working with you and sharing your talents with the outside world!

Thoughts of You and I

Thoughts of you and I collide, with passion
and erotic cries, still I hunger for something more
Loving you is such a chore
My body craves your fingertips, I close my eyes
to feel your lips
Something moves me within, I respond to your voice
I have no choice, I begin to groove, your tone
is smooth, your lyrics are "cool"

Perhaps the outside world would label me a fool, but
with you I'm "kool," while thoughts of you and I
collide with passion and erotic cries

-Alison

**SEND YOUR STORIES, THOUGHTS, POEMS, DRAWINGS TO BE INCLUDED IN AN
UPCOMING ISSUE TO:**

**THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!**

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